

Message Text

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10

ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 EB-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

USIA-15 AID-20 IO-14 /135 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:HNEWSOM/HFO EXT-

APPROVED BY T - MR. MAW

EA/K;DLRANARD

EA:PHABIB

S/S - SRGAMMON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

INFO COMUSK

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 208631

E.O. 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT: DEFENSE MINISTER SUH'S CALL ON UNDERSECRETARY

MAW

1. IN INTRODUCING DEFENSE MINISTER TO UNDERSECRETARY MAW, HABIB RELATED HIS EARLIER EXCHANGE WITH SUH DURING WHICH HE HAD DESCRIBED NEGATIVE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ACTION ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE. UNDER SECRETARY MAW ADDED THAT OUR PROGRAMS IN CONGRESS HAD RUN INTO DIFFICULTIES BECAUSE CONGRESS APPARENTLY DESIRED TO FIGHT INFLATION BY CUTTING APPROPRIATIONS. IN THAT CONTEXT, MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE WERE NOT ENJOYING WIDESPREAD POPULARITY.

2. IN RESPONSE, SUH EMPHASIZED GROWING ROK DEFENSE SELF-RELIANCE. ROK UNDERSTANDS DIFFICULT POSITION OF US AND RECOGNIZES THAT ROK CANNOT RELY FOREVER ON US AID. WHEREAS US FORMERLY PROVIDED 80 OF DEFENSE BUDGET, ROK
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NOW ACCOUNTS FOR 90 AND CAN PROVIDE 100 IN "NOT TOO

DISTANT FUTURE", IF ONLY US CAN EXTEND A LITTLE ASSISTANCE FOR A WHILE LONGER, ESPECIALLY LOANS AND TECHNOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE. MEANWHILE, ROK EXPECTS US PROGRAM FOR ROK FORCE MODERNIZATION WILL BE CARRIED ON AND EXECUTED AS SCHEDULED. FINALLY, SUH SAID COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

BETWEEN US AND ROK FORCES IS CORNERSTONE AGAINST NORTH KOREA THREAT AND PRESENCE OF US FORCES "FOR A CONSIDERABLE PERIOD" IS PRIME NECESSITY FOR ROK. KISSINGER

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